

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 06775 01 OF 02 251827Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EURE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02

STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 SS-15

NSC-05 L-02 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03

IO-10 SAB-01 /107 W

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P R 251812Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9672

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY SANAA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06775

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, GW, EG, SA, XF

SUBJECT: GENSCHER'S TRIP TO THE MID-EAST--FOLLOW-UP

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PAGE 02 BONN 06775 01 OF 02 251827Z

BRIEFING

REF: BONN 6614

SUMMARY: THE FOREIGN OFFICE'S POLITICAL DIRECTOR FOR THE DEVELOPING WORLD, DR. LAHN, WHO TRAVELED WITH GENSCHER AND ATTENDED ALL MEETINGS, HAS GIVEN EMBOFFS AN ACCOUNT OF THE TRIP WHICH PROVIDES SOME ADDITIONAL NUANCES. END SUMMARY.

1. LAHN SAID QUITE FRANKLY THAT HE HAD NOT ENTIRELY SHARED GENSCHER'S INTERPRETATION OF THE EGYPTIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND THE POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF THE KISSINGER MISSION. WHEREAS THE MINISTER HAD GOTTEN THE IMPRESSION THAT THE EGYPTIANS SAW THESE TWO APPROACHES IN PARALLEL, LAHN WAS CONVINCED THAT SADAT AND FAHMI NOW VIEWED THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AS THE MAJOR FOCUS OF ACTIVITY. THIS DID NOT REFLECT ANY OPPOSITION ON THE PART OF THE EGYPTIANS TO A RENEWAL OF THE KISSINGER MISSION. ON THE CONTRARY, SADAT WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO STRESS HIS CONTINUING CONFIDENCE IN THE UNITED STATES AND HIS GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER. IT WAS, RATHER, A REFLECTION OF EGYPTIAN ESTIMATES OF THE POSSIBILITIES INHERENT IN THE DEVELOPING SITUATION. IN DISCUSSING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, THE EGYPTIANS EMPHASIZED THAT THEY WERE NOT MAKING A CONDITION OUT OF THEIR DESIRE TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS. LAHN COMMENTED TO EMBOFFS IN THIS CONNECTION THAT FAHMI'S JUST-COMPLETED TALKS IN MOSCOW SEEMED TO HAVE PUT A DAMPER ON ANY EGYPTIAN HOPES FOR INCLUSION OF BRITAIN AND FRANCE BASED ON THEIR STATUS AS PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL, SINCE THE SOVIET UNION COULD NEVER ACCEPT THE PARTICIPATION OF CHINA.

2. ENLARGING SOMEWHAT ON THE EGYPTIANS' VIEW OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO THE U.S., LAHN SAID HE HAD DETECTED NO SIGN OF LOSS OF CONFIDENCE IN THE DETERMINATION OF THE U.S. TO PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN WORLD AFFAIRS. THE SUBJECT OF VIETNAM HAD OF COURSE NOT GONE UNMENTIONED, BUT CAIRO HAD SHOWN NO INCLINATION TO CONCLUDE THAT THE U.S. WAS UNTRUSTWORTHY.

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PAGE 03 BONN 06775 01 OF 02 251827Z

3. SADAT SAID EGYPT HAD NO OBJECTION TO U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL. THE QUESTION WAS WHICH ISRAEL THE U.S. SUPPORTED: THE ONE WHICH WAS CONTINUING TO OCCUPY THE TERRITORY OF OTHER STATES AND TO BASE ITS POLICY ON OUTMODED CONCEPTS OF SECURITY, OR AN ISRAEL LIVING WITHIN ITS OWN BORDERS AND AT PEACE WITH ITS NEIGHBORS. LAHN SAID THAT IN HIS VIEW SADAT WAS A REALIST WHO CLEARLY ACCEPTED

ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO RECOGNIZE GUARANTEES OF ISRAEL WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF 1967.

4. SADAT PUT GREAT STRESS ON EGYPT'S ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. HE TOLD GENSCHER THAT THE EUROPEANS SHOULD NOT USE THEIR OWN ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AS A PRETEXT FOR WITHHOLDING AID FROM POOR ARAB COUNTRIES. THE USSR WAS PUTTING THE SQUEEZE ON, SADAT SAID, AMONG OTHER THINGS BY REFUSING TO PROLONG THE GRACE PERIOD ON OUTSTANDING LOANS. WHEN GENSCHER OBSERVED THAT EGYPT MUST BE GETTING SOME ASSISTANCE FROM WEALTHY ARAB OIL PRODUCERS, SADAT REPLIED THAT THIS SOURCE OF AID SHOULD NOT BE OVERESTIMATED. EGYPT WAS APPROACHING THE POINT WHERE WITHIN A FEW MONTHS ITS ECONOMY MIGHT BREAK DOWN. FRG AMBASSADOR STELTZER COMMENTED AFTERWARDS TO THE MINISTER THAT IN HIS RECOLLECTION THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME SADAT HAD SPOKEN SO OPENLY ABOUT EGYPT'S PLIGHT.

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PAGE 01 BONN 06775 02 OF 02 251825Z

43

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CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 06775

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PAGE 02 BONN 06775 02 OF 02 251825Z

5. LAHN'S COMMENTS GENERALLY CONFIRMED THE REPORT OF GENSCHER'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA GIVEN IN REFTEL. THE GERMANS WERE IMPRESSED BY PRINCE FAHD, VIEWED CHALID'S ROLE AS MORE OR LESS REPRESENTATIVE, AND FOUND THE YOUNG DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SAUD APPEALING BUT INEXPERIENCED. ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT MEET WITH YAMANI, THEY HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT HIS POSITION HAD NOT BEEN WEAKENED.

6. COMMENTING ON THE RECEPTION GIVEN TO GENSCHER'S PORTRAYAL OF THE FRG'S MIDDLE EASTERN POLICY, LAHN SAID THAT WHAT BOTH SADAT AND FAHMI HAD CRITICIZED WAS NOT SO MUCH LACK OF BALANCE AS LACK OF ACTION. BUT WHEN GENSCHER REPLIED THAT THE FRG WOULD BE WILLING TO EXAMINE ANY CONCRETE PROPOSALS, THE ANSWERS HE GOT WERE VAGUE. WHAT IT BOILED DOWN TO WAS THAT THE EC SHOULD BRING ITS WEIGHT MORE INTO PLAY AND THAT MORE PRESSURE SHOULD BE EXERTED ON ISRAEL; THE EUROPEANS SHOULD ATTEMPT TO CONVINCE THE ISRAELIS THAT TIME WAS AGAINST THEM AND THAT COMPROMISE WAS IN THEIR OWN INTEREST. IN COMMENTING ON ISRAELI POLICY, GENSCHER (AS HE OFTEN DOES) RECALLED THE FRG'S OWN PAINFUL PROCESS OF GIVING UP ILLUSIONS. THIS PROCESS WAS NECESSARY IN ISRAEL, WHICH NOW HAD TO ADJUST TO THINKING IN DIFFERENT SECURITY CATEGORIES FROM THOSE TO WHICH IT WAS ACCUSTOMED. GENSCHER TOLD FAHMI THAT HE HAD TOLD ALLON, DURING THE LATTER'S RECENT VISIT TO BONN, THAT SADAT WAS IN EFFECT OFFERING ISRAEL A HISTORICAL CHANCE WHICH ISRAEL WOULD BE WISE TO TAKE UP. FAHMI REPLIED THAT HE WAS SURE ISRAEL WOULD ONE DAY INDEED REGRET HAVING MISSED THIS CHANCE.

HILLENBRAND

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